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LETTER DATED 27 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 25 January 1997 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the Government of Iran's persistence in evading its international responsibility to counter acts of terrorism emanating from its territory.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 25 January 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to the letter dated 14 January 1997 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations (S/1997/38) and to our letter of 13 January 1997 addressed to you (S/1997/34, annex) informing you of the Iranian Government's refusal either to extradite or bring to trial the perpetrators of the heinous crime involving an attempt on the life of Mr. Udayy Saddam Hussein, Chairman of the Iraqi National Olympic Committee and son of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

It is to be noted from the aforesaid Permanent Representative's letter that, instead of responding to the logic of international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, the Iranian Government has resorted to its customary practice of using words and expressions that are unacceptable in diplomatic usage and that it has done so for the purpose of evading its international responsibility to counter acts of terrorism.

I reject the aforementioned letter of the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations as bearing no relation, proximate or remote, to the subject of Iraq's letters as circulated in documents S/1996/1076 and S/1997/3, and I once again request you to intervene with the Iranian Government with a view to prevailing upon it to honour its international commitments by bringing the perpetrators to trial or by surrendering them to the Iraqi authorities for that purpose.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs